Talks between India and China on border dispute

*48. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether official talks between India and China were held recently to solve the boundary dispute between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Special Representatives of the Governments of India and China on the Boundary Question held their first meeting in New Delhi on October 23-24, 2003. The meeting was held in a codial, constructive and cooperative atmosphere. On October 24, 2003, the Chinese Special Representatives called on Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister. The Special Representatives, who have been tasked by the Prime Ministers of India and China to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework of a boundary settlement, have agreed to meet again on mutually acceptable dates in Beijing.

Bangladesh Government's objection over interlinking of rivers by India

*49. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bangladesh has expressed objection and resentment against the interlinking of rivers proposed to be initiated by India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the grounds on which the objections are based; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to allay the misapprehensions of the Government of Bangladesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) The Government of Bangladesh has protested the proposed implementation of the river inter-